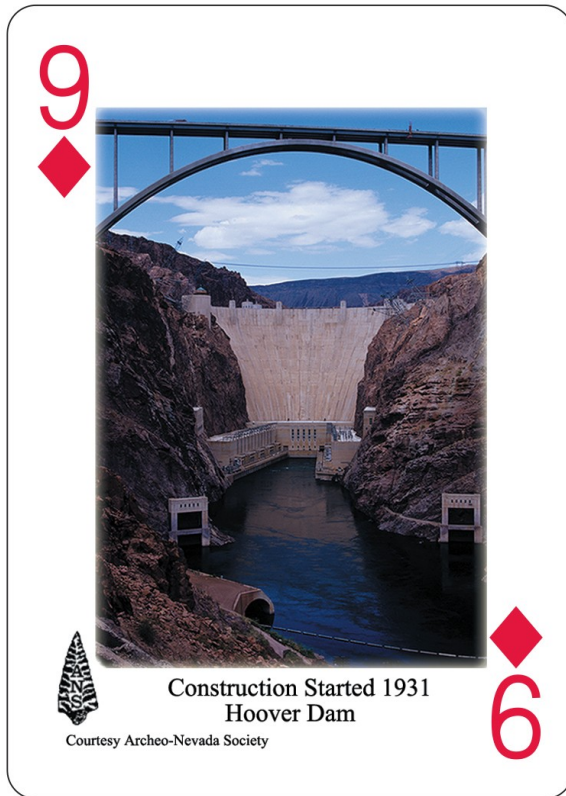


Hoover Dam National Historic Landmark



Hoover Dam is among the largest and earliest of the nation's massive multiple-purpose dams. By providing electric power, water storage and flood control, the dam made increased levels of population and agricultural production in large areas of the American Southwest feasible, affecting not only lands near the Colorado River, but also urban centers such as Los Angeles, Phoenix and Las Vegas. Hoover Dam is distinguished by its size, the generating capacity of its hydroelectric plant, and the far-reaching impacts of its operations on the agricultural, industrial, and urban development of the southwestern United States. In the field of hydraulic engineering, the dam is an accomplishment comparable to the Panama Canal.

Hoover Dam was the highest dam in the world when it was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Today it is still the western hemisphere's highest concrete dam. Because of this height, it created a reservoir that could store the normal flow of the river, including all average floods, for 2 years.

One of the major engineering techniques developed in construction of Hoover Dam was the cooling of the concrete. If the dam had been allowed to cool naturally, it would have taken more than a century to do so, and it would have shrunk and cracked as it cooled.

For more information on Hoover Dam please visit:

<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/>

